

QUARTZ FUSION FURNACE AND METHOD FOR FORMING QUARTZ  
ARTICLES

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5       A crucible for melting a silica for fusion of said silica into a desired shape. The crucible having a main body with inner and outer surfaces comprised of a refractory material. In addition, at least a portion of the inner surface includes a barrier layer comprised of a material selected from rhenium, osmium, iridium, and mixtures thereof. An inlet tube to the crucible being provided to supply an oxidizing gas to a melt zone.